



Almost Heaven: The Virginia Newspaper Project and the Search for West Virginia Newspapers

The Library of Virginia's newspaper collection now totals more than 3,000 different titles. It is the commonwealth's largest collection of newspaper materials and continues to grow at an extraordinary pace. However, for many years the Library has been aware of a significant gap in its holdings. While the collection already included an impressive variety of newspapers from the westernmost reaches of the state—the area that is now West Virginia—there was little doubt that it represented only a small sampling of the region's nineteenth-century community papers.

The westernmost counties' extreme mountainous topography fostered a number of newspapers serving hundreds of remote and scattered communities. These papers recorded the area's early settlement history, the development of a regional economy, and much of western Virginia's Civil War-era political and military history. Thus in 2003 the Library and its Virginia Newspaper Project embarked on a meticulous and complex search for this important range of titles.

Of particular interest were papers for the period prior to and during West Virginia's 1861–1863 path to statehood. Also of interest were newspapers for the Reconstruction period and in some instances for papers covering the area's history to 1900.

The assignment seemed simple enough: scan through multiple catalogs, identify the appropriate titles available for purchase on 35mm microfilm, and place the order. Especially promising were the listings from

ProQuest, formerly University Microfilms International/UMI. Unfortunately, titles the Library expected to find—not to mention more obscure ones—were nowhere to be seen. However, Virginia Newspaper Project catalogers in their travels across the Commonwealth were well aware of an array of titles that they knew existed. There was evidence of so many early titles that it was hard not to believe that somewhere, somehow, there were larger caches of material and that much of it at some time had probably been microfilmed. But the titles were not turning up in any film publishers' lists.

Newspaper Project detectives then turned to the most logical source: the former West Virginia Newspaper Project (WVNP).

The WVNP, like the Virginia Newspaper Project, was also funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) as part of the United States Newspaper Program (USNP), a 20-year effort to locate, catalog, and preserve United States imprint newspapers. Individual states started and completed work at different times, with the West Virginia project starting in the early 1980s and completing work in 1989–1990.

The Library contacted the former director of the West Virginia Newspaper Project, now the associate curator for West Virginia University's West Virginia and Regional History Collection. There the Library found confirmation that filming was indeed done. There, too, was the explanation of why none of the titles could now be found.

A lengthy bibliographic listing confirmed every title as well as date-specific issues—the listing also offered the breakthrough the Library so desperately sought. Because so many West Virginia titles were short-lived—so dependent on moving populations, a volatile economy, and the politics of the era—the span of issues was usually short, often very short. As a result, the West Virginia Project elected to microfilm multiple abbreviated files, then combine them on single reels. One reel, for example, might include twelve, eighteen, or even more titles from widely scattered communities.

We were in business. All the Virginia Newspaper Project had to do then was sift through the listing of titles on each reel, determine if the Library of Virginia held the titles, and then order the much-needed ones, assuming they fell within the necessary date ranges. Or so it seemed.

It was not to be. The West Virginia project did not have the master negatives. Instead, the project had deposited the film with ProQuest/UMI. But the Library of Virginia had already examined ProQuest's title lists in great detail and had made multiple inquiries.

After much discussion, it became apparent that ProQuest had filed the film solely by the first title on the reel; none of any reel's other titles were listed. Still not daunted, the Library planned somehow to extrapolate from the broad list of project titles and order reels based on issue runs, date ranges, and other significant ...see **Newspapers**, pg. 3



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PUBLIC RECORDS ACT STUDY CONCLUDES

The two-year long study of the Virginia Public Records Act (HJ 6, 2004) by the General Assembly concluded in November. Significant legislative proposals are expected to be introduced in the General Assembly session beginning in January 2006.

The study process included several public meetings, as well as public working group sessions where any interested party could contribute to the process. Among the participants were state and local government records officers, the Virginia Press Association, the Virginia Coalition for Open Government, the Virginia Association of Counties, representatives from state government agencies, and librarians and archivists. The ...see **Public Records**, pg. 2

Library to Offer “Virginia Women in History”

The Library of Virginia and the Virginia Foundation for Women recently concluded an agreement to transfer the VFW’s popular “Virginia Women in History” educational program to the Library.

Since 2000 the VFW has presented the “Virginia Women in History” program highlighting women from Virginia’s past and present. Through the program, schools, libraries, and cultural institutions received copies of a colorful poster featuring biographical information and images of outstanding Virginia women. Accompanying the poster were learning activities for teachers and students from kindergarten through high school geared to the Virginia Standards of Learning. In addition, every March, for Women’s History month, the VFW held a reception to honor the women featured on the annual poster. Invited guests included prominent women, local and state officials, honorees, and the descendants of women from earlier eras featured on the poster.

The Library of Virginia has been an active partner in the “Virginia Women in History” program for several years, providing research assistance and displaying an exhibition of each year’s honorees. For the last two years, the Library been the host site for the reception honoring the women featured on the poster.

The VFW selected the Library, in part, because of its many contributions to the field of women’s history. In 2004, the Library presented

“Working Out Her Destiny: Women’s History in Virginia, 1600–2004,” a major exhibition that took a fresh look at the history of Virginia’s women and the history of Virginia. Accompanying the exhibition was a two-day symposium that brought to Richmond many of the country’s leading historians of women. In 2007, the Library will also publish a revised edition of Suzanne Lebsock’s ground-breaking book on women’s history, *A Share of Honour*, originally published as part of the 1984–1985 Virginia Women’s Cultural History Project.

The Virginia Foundation for Women was founded in 1994 with a mission to support the welfare of women and girls through education, collaboration, outreach, and leadership. Although the VFW plans to continue its work in support of women, the women’s history program was not a good fit with the foundation’s new priorities. When approached by the VFW to take over the “Virginia Women in History” program, the Library was pleased to do so. “This program offers us an opportunity to share with new audiences the unique materials and resources that the Library carefully preserves as well as our staff’s historical expertise,” said Dr. Sandra G. Treadway, deputy director and women’s historian. “We are delighted that the Virginia Foundation for Women has entrusted us to move this vital educational program forward.”

Public Records... working group sessions usually focused on specific issues, and resulted in sometimes lively discussion among stakeholders. When consensus was met on issues, the full subcommittee was presented clear and concise proposals for change. When the work groups could not agree, the issue was presented to the full joint subcommittee for discussion and final arbitration.

Several significant changes are expected to be introduced in the 2006 legislative session. The proposed Public Records Act changes will include clarification of the Library of Virginia’s role in the preservation of all public records regardless of the method of recordation. It will clarify that the agency or locality that creates the record is responsible for insuring that the record remains accessible throughout its lifecycle and that sufficient metadata be included to provide for continued access.

The role of the Library of Virginia in providing training to records managers in state agencies and localities will be codified. An amendment to the Public Records Act will require that all public officials receive a copy of the act upon appointment or election and that they be familiar with it. A similar provision is included in the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. Additionally, it will be the responsibility of each agency to provide the Library with the name of its records officer, so that the Library can maintain an accurate list of contacts.

The Library’s ability to enforce the Public Records Act would be strengthened by a proposal that will allow the Librarian of Virginia to conduct an audit of the records management practices of any agency. This should serve as a tool to encourage compliance with regulations and guidelines promulgated by the Library. The Library of Virginia will be authorized to convene advisory committees of experts as necessary to address issues affecting Virginia’s Public Records Act.

Finally, a proposal to open confidential archival records after 75 years, in line with federal guidelines, will be made. This will change the current law which restricts access for 100 years.

At this writing, the draft legislation was not available. It is expected that members of the joint subcommittee will sponsor the proposed legislation in the House of Delegates and the Senate.

—submitted by Mary Clark,
Collection Management Services

CIRCUIT COURT PROGRAM AWARDS 17 RECORDS-PRESERVATION PROJECTS

When the Grant Review Board for the Circuit Court Records Preservation Program met on October 19, 2005, it awarded \$198,843 to 13 clerks’ offices. The project awards range from \$2,347 to \$26,980, with four offices awarded two projects. With these awards six offices will conserve historical volumes, five will install camera security systems, three will undertake records-processing projects, two will reformat records, and one will be able to re-house land plats. A complete list of awards can be found in the October 19 minutes at <www.lva.lib.va.us/whowere/boards/ccrpmminutes/index.htm>. As the next deadline of March 15, 2006, approaches, many clerks will be preparing applications for similar projects.

For those unfamiliar with this program, the General Assembly enacted legislation in 1990 which increased the cost of recording land transactions. One dollar of this increase was earmarked for the preservation of circuit court records. With an increase in the allotment in 2001, the legislation, as amended, now reads: *One dollar and fifty cents of the fee collected for recording and indexing shall be designated for use in preserving the permanent records of the circuit courts. The sum collected for this purpose shall be administered by the Library of Virginia in cooperation with the circuit court clerks.*

A portion of that cooperation comes from the circuit court clerks who sit on the Grant Review Board, and the clerks who served in 2005 were Ann Gentry, Gloucester County; Charles “Vic” Mason, King George County; and Barbara Williams, Appomattox County. Their service was greatly appreciated by the program’s staff members.

—submitted by Glenn Smith, Archival and Records Management Services

Newspapers... clues of the listed title, with the expectation the other titles would follow on the reel. But what titles? That was not always clear. And to make the task even harder, master film is ordinarily stripped off its original 100-foot plastic reels and uploaded onto 1,000-foot reels for more efficient storage. These larger reels combined all manner of titles, from all manner of places. In a sense, hundreds of titles were hidden away in the vault.

In November 2003, in an effort to locate the missing titles, the Virginia Newspaper Project director traveled to Wooster, Ohio, site of UMI's microfilming production plant and master-negative vault. After one day's work, it was clear that someone needed to complete a complex series of steps to locate the film. An old card file and the institutional memories of the production supervisor and vault manager were keys to finding the hidden West Virginia titles. In the meantime, the Library of Virginia ordered a few West Virginia titles, but awaited the opportunity to improve the Library's West Virginia holdings significantly by locating titles still tantalizingly out of reach.

Then in 2005, ProQuest/UMI announced the hiring of a library analyst whose primary job was to improve access to the company's vast inventory of microfilm and match it with the Library's want-list, based on ProQuest/UMI's individual review of the Library of Virginia's current newspaper collection. There was hope. And after nearly two years there was suddenly a flurry of activity.

The ProQuest/UMI analyst not only reviewed the Library of Virginia's collection over several days but also substantially improved access to the company's main database of titles, thus revealing an array of titles for which the Library had few or no holdings. She then traveled to Wooster, Ohio, and spent a week tracking down the elusive cache of West Virginia titles.

Thus in October 2005, the Library—at last—ordered nearly 100 West Virginia titles. All the titles date from the 19th century and, while there is some overlap with the Library's existing collection, the vast majority represents unique titles and issues.

And there is more to come. In December, the Library plans to purchase additional long-lost titles found in the Wooster vault, titles deposited by West Virginia University. A quick review of the latest report shows that there are an additional 500 discreet titles stored on 160 reels of film.

From the *Impartial Observer* and the *Busy Bee* to the *Marion County Liberalist* and *Our Mountain Messenger*, the collection of West Virginia titles will fill a long-standing gap in the Library's research resources. We encourage all interested researchers to take advantage of the Library of Virginia's collection of West Virginia newspapers preserved on microfilm. It will prove to be a wild and wonderful journey.

—submitted by Errol S. Somay,
Collection Management Services

"THE MYSTERY OF HISTORY" CONTINUES THROUGH APRIL 15

The third installment of a year-long exploration of the archival collections at the Library of Virginia, "The Mystery of History: Putting It Together," offers examples of how researchers use different collections to gather information and to put it together in published works. Jennifer Davis McDaid, of Archives Research, and Craig Moore, of Description Services, focus on tuberculosis, women archivists, and the 1807 Chesapeake and Leopard Affair as topics for this exhibition. Another topic is divorce in the commonwealth before the Civil War, focusing on Thomas E. Buckley's book, *The Great Catastrophe of My Life: Divorce in the Old Dominion*.

On January 17, 2006, at noon in the Library's conference rooms historian Brent Tarter will deliver a free lecture, "How Do We Know That? Historians and How They Use Evidence from the Archives." He will discuss how historians use archival materials, some of which will be on display in the "Mystery of History" exhibition in the lobby, to answer questions, piece together stories, and understand the past. Documents, images, maps, artifacts, and printed materials are like the fragments of bone or pottery that archaeologists dig out of the earth. Each piece is part of a larger picture, but seldom can all of the pieces be found. Historians pry the hidden histories of people out of the available surviving pieces of evidence.

Library Foundation Receives Grant to Renovate Exhibition Gallery

The Library of Virginia Foundation is pleased to announce that a private Richmond foundation has awarded the Library a matching grant of \$100,000 for the purposes of renovations to the gallery and related exhibition funding. The Library of Virginia Foundation is currently raising funds to match this grant and you can help.

In 1997, the Library of Virginia opened a new state-of-the-art facility with an exhibition gallery that allows us to showcase our many historical and cultural resources through rotating exhibitions, some of which travel around the commonwealth. After mounting highly successful exhibitions over the past eight years, the gallery is showing its age. Improvements to the gallery will include additional lighting, new casements, and renovated wall space to increase usable surfaces. The gallery will be closed for renovation April 4 through June 30, 2006.

Subsequent to the renovations, two exhibitions are planned. The first exhibition, to open on July 24, 2006, will be *Freeing Art from Wood: The Sculpture of Leslie Garland Bolling*. This exhibition will feature more than 20 wood sculptures by Leslie Garland Bolling (1898–1955). As a self-taught carver, he achieved considerable renown for his work in the 1930s and early 1940s through exhibitions sponsored by the Harmon Foundation and encouragement from people connected to the Harlem Renaissance. To date, 79 titles of works have been compiled, although several of those titles may represent renamed works. The sculptures are from both public and private collections located not only in Virginia but also in California, Connecticut, New Jersey, Georgia, Maryland, Illinois, and Texas.

Following this exhibition, the Library will join the Jamestown 2007 celebration

with an exhibition entitled *Myth & Memory: Four Hundred Years of Virginia History*. *Myth & Memory* will explore how Virginians remember and shape their history. Anchored by the 1909 and 1957 Jamestown expositions, the exhibition will examine other commemorative events in the history of commonwealth, including the centennial and bicentennial of Yorktown, Emancipation Day celebrations, Confederate reunions, and local centennial events. *Myth & Memory* will suggest what history is and explain how public memory reflects our knowledge and life experiences.

Every dollar contributed to the Library of Virginia Foundation will be matched up to \$100,000. Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution. To learn more about the project or to make a donation, please contact Mary Beth McIntire 804-692-3590.

LIVE HELP



Did you know...?

The Library of Virginia's Reference Services section switched to a new software program for chat service called Live Help used by many state agencies in Virginia. In case you did not know, you can now communicate with a librarian Monday through Friday, 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM EST, via your computer and the Internet. This service is widely known as Virtual Reference. It is an easy way to communicate with the Library without encountering telephone costs. This service is ideal for brief questions involving where to find information, telephone

numbers, and addresses, or inquiries about availability of books and Web sites, to name a few.

This new software allows the librarian to enter into your computer a Web site without you having to write the address. You may access this service by going to this page on our Web site <www.lva.lib.va.us/chat/index.htm> as well as from the Virginia portal at <www.virginia.gov/cmsportal/services_869/live_3654/index.html>. Let us hear from you soon!

RESEARCH GUIDES

Reference Services staff have extensively revised two research guides this fall: "Historic Virginia Documents on the Internet" and "Steps to Establish a Small Business in Virginia." Both are available in the Reading Rooms, by request from Reference Services (804-692-3777), and on the Library Web site <www.lva.lib.va.us> under Research Guides and Bibliographies in the site index.

"Historic Virginia Documents on the Internet" now includes more than 40 documents that illustrate the development of Virginia's political, social, and religious thought from the early 17th through the 20th centuries. Most are governmental in nature and thus give what might be called an official view of history; however, as the editors of *Annals of America* say in their introduction to their multivolume set, such documents are "...the formal expressions of our ends and of the means by which we hoped to bring them about." Whether we read the "Instructions for the Virginia Colony, 1606," the "Draft for a Bill for Establishing Religious Freedom, 1779," or the current "Constitution of Virginia," we gain insight into the problems faced by Virginians and the effort and compromises they made to deal with them.

"Steps to Establish a Small Business in Virginia" explores the complicated process of setting up and running a business in the commonwealth. Novice entrepreneurs may be overwhelmed when faced with business plans, licenses, zoning requirements, building

and fire regulations, insurance, myriad regulations, and, of course, taxes. This guide deals with each requirement, often giving several print and online resources that deal specifically with a topic. Further, the guide offers an outline of services offered by Virginia agencies that regulate businesses and the by Small Business Administration as well as contact information for these offices. "Steps to Establish a Small Business in Virginia" helps you find the specific information you need, when you need it.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Europe 1450 to 1789: Encyclopedia of the Early Modern World (2004), is a six-volume publication that adds to the understanding of the history of the United States and Virginia by exploring Europe's past. Part of a set of encyclopedias about European history that the publisher Charles Scribner's Sons describes as extending "from the Stone Age to a new millennium," *Europe 1450 to 1789* encapsulates the major events and individuals from a period that presages the modern world.

Under the auspices of its editor in chief Jonathan Dewald, University of Buffalo Distinguished Professor of History, this encyclopedia is a collection of 1,150 articles arranged alphabetically, with each article varying in length from 250 to 6,000 words, some lavishly illustrated. The articles begin with a six-page discussion of the concept of "Absolutism," and conclude with a two-page biographical sketch of the Swiss reformer and preacher Huldrych Zwingli. They emphasize

the themes of interpretation and historiography; social history; everyday life, social classes and orders; economic history; political history; law, justice, and crime; international relations, diplomacy, and war; religion; art, culture, literature, and language; education, printing, and literacy; philosophy and intellectual life; concepts and ideas; science; technology; events; countries, regions, cities, places outside Europe, oceans, and seas; and biographies and dynasties. When appropriate, an article lists cross-references to related articles, and every article includes a bibliography of primary and secondary sources.

Tables of contents appear in the front of every volume, with each volume including the contents of the other volumes. Also in the front of each volume are maps showing Europe's political boundaries in 1453, 1520, 1648, 1715, 1763, and 1795. In volume one, the editor in chief provides a preface and an informative introduction to the early modern period. Volume one also has chronological tables that begin in 1450 and end in 1806, with major events arranged under the themes of politics and society; religion and philosophy; science and technology; art and literature; drama and music; and literature and scholarship. In volume six, after the last article, there is a 12-page outline of the encyclopedia's contents, divided into 19 major themes. A 21-page directory of contributors follows the outline, including each contributor's university affiliation and title of article or articles. Finally, volume six ends with a 194-page detailed alphabetical index to the entire encyclopedia.

Foundation Sponsors Traveling Exhibition

In *Europe 1450 to 1789*, editor in chief Dewald has produced an admirable and relatively concise reference resource for an important subject. The scholarship is obvious, with an editorial board that includes the University of Virginia C. Julian Bishko Professor of History, H. C. Erik Midelfort. With the constantly changing worldwide situation, even some knowledge of early modern European history can only buttress our understanding of current events. This encyclopedia is a valuable addition to the reference collection of the Library of Virginia.

Lewis to Lead LDND

Elizabeth M. “Libby” Lewis, formerly assistant director for library development at the Library of Virginia, has been named director of the Library Development and Networking Services Division.

Lewis worked at the Library of Virginia from 1978 to 1988, during which time she served as institutional library consultant, administrative consultant, and assistant director for State and Federal Programs. She left the Library for a few years and returned in December 1995 as assistant director for library development. She holds bachelor of science and master of library science degrees from the University of Tennessee as well as a masters of science in public administration from Virginia Commonwealth University.

A member of the American Library Association, the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Services, and the Virginia Library Association, she has been a frequent presenter at VLA annual conferences and recently was elected VLA 2d vice president.

Lewis brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to her new post. She is particularly eager to work more closely with the public library community and the Library Board in carrying out the recommendations of a recently commissioned study of public libraries, “Inventing the Future of Public Libraries in Virginia,” which can be found on the Library of Virginia Web site at <www.vpl.lib.va.us/hwstudy/report/index.asp>.

The Library of Virginia Foundation is pleased to sponsor *Working Out Her Destiny: Women's History in Virginia 1607-2004*, Panel Traveling Exhibition. This exhibition is a retrospective commemoration of the 20th anniversary of *A Share of Honour: Virginia Women 1600-1945*. *A Share of Honour* was hosted by the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in 1984 and was produced by the Virginia Women's Cultural History Project. The current exhibition—*Working Out Her Destiny*—is in part the result of the information made available by *A Share of Honour*, which served as a catalyst for research on previously overlooked participants in the story of Virginia.

The Library of Virginia's traveling version of *Working Out Her Destiny* consists of images and text showcasing 16 noteworthy Virginians. The contents of the exhibition exemplify the changes noted in the 20 years since *A Share of Honour*, and illustrate the role of women in Virginia's history. The traveling exhibition made its debut in Roanoke, Virginia, at the Western Virginia History Museum. It now travels to South Boston where the exhibition may be viewed January 16 until February 27, 2006, at The Prizery. From March 20 until June 3, 2006, the exhibition will be hosted by the Galax-Carroll Regional Library and the last scheduled stop on the tour is Emory & Henry College from August to October 2006. If you are interested in hosting the *Working Out Her Destiny* traveling exhibition, please contact Barbara Batson at the Library of Virginia, 804-692-3518. The exhibition is available during the June to August timeframe and again after October 2006.

HIGHLIGHTED WOMEN INCLUDE:

Elizabeth Van Lew (1818–1900). A lifelong Richmond resident, she acted as a Union espionage agent in the Confederacy's capitol. Heralded for her bravery, she was appointed the postmaster of Richmond by President Ulysses S. Grant following the war, becoming the first woman to hold the office. Later in life she was decried for her Unionism; myths about her led to mendacious views of both Van Lew and women's activities in the South during the Civil War.

Jessie Menifield Rattley (1929–2001). A revolutionary political figure and educator, Rattley was the first African American and the first woman to be elected to Newport News City Council. Later she was the first African American and first woman to be elected mayor of Newport News. After teaching in public schools and serving as a hospital administrator she founded the Peninsula Business College in 1952.

Undine Smith Moore (1904–1989). A native of Jarratt, Virginia, Moore was the first to receive a scholarship from the Julliard Graduate School in order to study music at Fisk University; she followed this by studying for her master of arts degree at Columbia University in New York. Her education and love of music led her to numerous professorships at colleges across the country. Once regarded as the “Dean of Black Women Composers,” she composed works for piano, other instrumental groups, and choral pieces. Undine Smith Moore is best known for the Pulitzer Prize-nominated composition *Scenes from the Life of a Martyr*, based on the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Additional women featured in this exciting exhibition are:

Emma Frances Plecker Cassell—Community Leader
Pauline Forstall Colclough Adams—Suffragist
Margaret Elizabeth Pfohl Campbell—Public Television Pioneer
Charlotte (Lottie) Digges Moon—Missionary
Oriana (Orie) Russell Moon Andrews—Doctor
Ruth L. Harvey Charity—Civil Rights Activist
Janie Porter Barret—Educator
Katherine Harwood Waller Barret—Social Reformer
Naomi Silverman Cohn—Civic Leader
Mary-Cooke Branch Munford—Reformer
Adele Goodman Clark—Suffragist
Helen Timmons Henderson—Pioneer Woman Legislator
Helen Ruth Henderson—Pioneer Woman Legislator

2006 Library of Virginia Literary Awards Entry Form

Category of Entry (please check one) ☐ Fiction ☐ Nonfiction ☐ Poetry

Title of Entry _____

Author's full name, mailing address, and contact
information, including phone # and email, if known

Publisher's full name, mailing address, and publicist's
contact information, if known

Book publication and distribution date _____

(MUST BE PUBLISHED IN 2005 TO QUALIFY FOR THE 2006 AWARDS)

This entry qualifies under eligibility guidelines by virtue of the following connection to Virginia:

Submitted by _____

Address _____ Telephone Number _____

_____ Email _____

Guidelines for Competition

Eligibility: Books eligible for the Library of Virginia Literary Awards must have been written by a Virginia author or, for nonfiction books, have a Virginia-related theme. A Virginia author is defined as a writer meeting one or more of the following qualifications: a native-born Virginian; an author living in Virginia; an author whose permanent home address is Virginia.

The following types of books are not eligible for the awards: reference works, edited works, children's and juvenile literature, photographic books, self-help books, and "how to" books.

Any individual, organization, or company may nominate books to be considered for these awards. Each year's awards honor books written in the previous calendar year. Thus entries for the 2006 awards must have been published and distributed between January 1 and December 31, 2005.

Procedure: Entry forms can be submitted online or completed as a interactive PDF and mailed to:

The Library of Virginia Literary Awards
800 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219-8000

The deadline for entries is February 10, 2006. The completed entry form and three copies of the book (nonreturnable) must be on hand prior to that date. Entries will be forwarded to judges on receipt, so please enter as soon as possible.

The Library of Virginia, as part of its management of the adjudication process, will request adjudication copies of eligible books nominated by interested readers.

LIBRARY PRESERVES PRISONER NEGATIVES

James E. Tolley, age 18, married Ruth Virginia Burford, age 16, on August 29, 1936, in Lynchburg. Their marriage was brief, volatile, and tragic. Shortly after their wedding James infected Ruth with syphilis. The couple fought over James' indifference to treatment of the disease and Ruth left him in September 1937, moving back with her aunt and uncle. Soon after, James broke into their house and carried Ruth away through the window. Ruth left James again the next month and had a restraining order issued against him, which he promptly violated. While James served a brief jail sentence for assaulting his wife, Ruth filed for and was granted a divorce in December 1937. On the night of January 7, 1938, James, jealous and still in love with his ex-wife, lay in wait for her in a vacant house in Lynchburg, armed with a .22 automatic rifle. When Ruth walked past the house with another man, James called out to her. When she ran away, James chased her and shot her twice, once each in the head and back, killing her instantly. He then turned the rifle on himself and fired three shots into his chest, but he survived. On February 24, 1938, in the Lynchburg City Corporation Court, James Tolley was convicted of first degree murder and sentenced to life in prison. Tolley arrived at the Virginia Penitentiary in Richmond on March 11, 1938 [photo one], where he remained until January 2, 1958, when Governor Thomas Stanley granted him a conditional pardon. However, Tolley violated his pardon and returned to the Penitentiary on October 3, 1962 [photo two].

The photographs of James E. Tolley were recently created as a part of a long-term project by the Library of Virginia, Etherington Conservation Center (ECC), and Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) to preserve the Library's vast collection of prisoner negatives. The Library has more than 47,000 acetate negatives of inmates incarcerated at the Virginia Penitentiary between 1934 and 1961. The instability of cellulose acetate film (also known as safety film) presents unique processing and preservation challenges. When stored in an improper environment (especially high heat and humidity) or exposed to acidic vapors of nearby degrading film, cellulose acetate film begins to degrade and creates acetic acid. The negatives begin to shrink and crack, channels form between the base and the

emulsion, and the negatives give off an acidic odor similar to vinegar. Once deterioration has begun, it cannot be reversed.

When the Department of Corrections transferred the negatives to the Library in June 1983, they were stored in groups of ten in acidic envelopes and double stacked tightly into four large Liberty storage boxes. Many of the oldest negatives had already begun to degrade and at some point during the 1980s the Library produced prints from about 7,000 of the most endangered negatives. However, no attempt was made to make prints from the remaining 40,000

negatives or to re-house the collection. In late 2004, a Description Services Branch archivist began to re-house the negatives by removing them from the Liberty boxes and placing each one in a separate acid-free paper enclosure which helps the dissipation of harmful acetic gases that can cause deterioration. While re-housing the negatives, Library staff identified approximately 8,300 negatives that had already begun to degrade and needed immediate preservation. The Library, after consulting with ECC for further preservation guidance, made arrangements with NEDCC to have the negatives duplicated through its Interpositive/Duplicate Negative process.

In the Interpositive/Duplicate Negative process, the original negative is contact-printed onto film to produce an interpositive (a positive image on film). The interpositive is then contact-printed onto film to produce a duplicate negative. NEDCC uses special films and filters to produce the most accurate reproduction possible. Prints are then made from the duplicate negative. This process costs \$19 for each original negative. As of November 2005, 1,200 negatives have been duplicated and an additional 400 were recently sent to NEDCC. The Library will continue to send negatives to NEDCC as funding permits. The prisoner photographs made from these negatives will be an invaluable addition to the Library's collection. The photographs are available to the public and are arranged by inmate number. The catalog record (Accession 41991) lists the range of photographs currently available. The Indexes to Prisoner Registers may serve as an index to this collection.

—submitted by Roger Christman,
Archival and Records Management Services

LIBRARY WORKS WITH VDSS TO DISTRIBUTE BOOKS FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDER TRAINING

With a grant to the Library of Virginia, the Virginia Department of Social Services' Division of Child Care and Development made possible the purchase of a set of 30 books for use by child care providers for every public library in the state. There are six adult titles and 24 children's titles in each set.

The Division of Child Care and Development chose the books to help child care providers expand their knowledge of early literacy development and improve their

ability to use children's books in the daily care of children from birth to three years of age. This effort coincides with a new state regulation that requires all child care providers to complete 16 hours of continuing education a year, up from the previous requirement of eight hours.

Some of the titles in the set are *Reading Begins at Home*, *A Good Start in Life*, and *Starting Out Right: A Guide to Promoting Children's Reading Success*.

Children's books in the set include *Goodnight Moon*, *Read-Aloud Rhymes for the Very Young*, *On Mother's Lap*, and *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*.

For additional information contact: Pat Muller, Children's and Youth Services Consultant, Library of Virginia, 804-692-3765; or Debra O'Neill, Training Coordinator, Virginia Department of Social Services, 804-726-7648.

Library Processes Norfolk Drawings and Plans

The Library of Virginia recently completed processing the architectural drawings and plans from the Norfolk (Va.) Building Inspection Office, 1898–1980 (Accession 32256). This valuable resource includes drawings for apartment buildings, banks, churches, commercial buildings, fraternal society buildings, garages, hospitals, hotels, municipal and state government buildings, office buildings, schools, service stations, single and multi-family residences, synagogues, and the like.

A link to the descriptive finding aid explaining the extent and arrangement of the collection can be found in the Library's Archives and Manuscripts catalog available at www.lva.lib.va.us/whatwehave.

The drawings are housed at the Library of Virginia's State Records Center. Please contact Archives Research Services for more information on access at www.lva.lib.va.us/whatwedo/archives/index.htm.

—Vincent T. Brooks,
Archival and Records Management Services



VIRGINIA ROOTS MUSIC

Jeffrey Scott, Piedmont blues musician and songster, performs at the Library of Virginia as part of Toe Tappin' Thursday on December 1, part of a series of events celebrating the grand opening of the Virginia Shop at the Library of Virginia.

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